

and Desertas, in the month of June. Our men used to catch numbers of this Petrel every night, and it was nothing for Manuel or Francisco to produce half-a-dozen each out of their shirts; but, with the exception of a few which we kept as specimens, the majority were allowed to escape. The call of this bird is very fine, and was frequently heard at night, a pleasant contrast to the harsh voices of the Great Shearwaters; it consists of four higher notes, and a lower, more prolonged note; the whole repeated several (usually three) times, and uttered in a loud, cheerful strain, which may be correctly expressed as follows:—



The eggs are pure white, almost pyriform in shape, and distinctly pointed towards the smaller end. Four shells measure 1.59–1.81 inch by 1.12–1.28.

IV.—On the Species of the Genus *Turdinulus*.

By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

IN the October number of 'The Ibis' 1895 (p. 432) I described a new species of Babbler (*Turdinulus guttaticollis*), from the Miri Hills. A more careful examination of the little group of Timeliæ to which this species belongs shows that the Miri bird is much more closely allied to the true Robert's Babbler (*Pnoëpyga* [*Turdinulus*] *roberti*, Godwin-Austen & Walden) than I at first supposed; and that the birds from Mount Mooleyit, Tenasserim, which have been named *T. roberti* by both Col. Godwin-Austen and Mr. A. O. Hume, and with which I compared my new species, belong in reality to a perfectly distinct species, having the throat and fore neck entirely devoid of the black spots which are equally characteristic of the true *T. roberti* and *T. guttaticollis*.

In 1877 Limborg and W. Davison visited Mount Mooleyit and secured a number of specimens of *Turdinulus*.

The birds collected by Limborg were examined by Col. Godwin-Austen, and identified as "*Pnoëpyga roberti*," Godw.-Aust. & Wald., although the throat and fore neck were entirely devoid of black spots. It must be added, however, that Col. Godwin-Austen's collection having at that time been sent to England, he was unable to compare the Mooleyit specimens with the types from the Manipur Hills.

Mr. A. O. Hume, no doubt accepting this erroneous identification, named all his Tenasserim examples of this little Babbler *Turdinulus roberti*, and under this misnomer they were placed in the National collection. So the mistake began, and, one error having led to another, the genus *Turdinulus* has at the present time got into a state of considerable confusion. But by commencing at its original source I hope to be able to clear up the tangle.

In the first place there can be no doubt that Mr. Büttikofer is quite justified in uniting the genera *Corythocichla*, Sharpe, and *Turdinulus*, Hume (Notes Leyd. Mus. xvii. p. 73). In *Turdinulus*, which was founded on *Pnoëpyga roberti*, the tail is said to be so short that it is hidden by the plumes of the rump. It is perfectly true that in *one* of the typical examples this is the case, but this peculiarity is entirely due to the "make-up of the skin," for in the second typical specimen as well as in other examples the tail extends at least 0.4 of an inch beyond the plumes of the rump, as in Dr. Sharpe's *Corythocichla*.

In 'The Ibis,' 1865, p. 47, Blyth described *Myiothera murina*, a species said by the author to be founded on a specimen in the Leyden Museum bearing the above MS. name of S. Müller. It has already been shown by Dr. Sharpe (Notes Leyd. Mus. 1884, p. 174) that the only *Myiothera murina*, S. Müll., in the Leyden Museum is no *Turdinulus*, but the *Crateroscelis murina* of his volume (Cat. B. vii. p. 590); and it is quite evident that Blyth's notes must have been written from memory—hence his mistake. He wrote as follows:—

"*M. murina*, S. Müll., n. s. Also a true *Turdinus* and

the smallest of the genus. Plumage as in its congeners, with long white supercilia and white spots tipping the wing-coverts. Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing 2 in.; tail 1 in.; bill to gape $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Sumatra."

It is clear that this description, brief as it is, cannot apply to the *Myiothera murina*, S. Müll. (= *Crateroscelis murina*), which is a native of New Guinea and some of the adjacent islands, not of Sumatra; and Dr. Sharpe [Notes Leyd. Mus. vi. p. 172 (1884)] is no doubt correct in regarding the *M. murina*, Blyth (nec S. Müller), as identical with *M. (Turdinulus) epilepidota*, Temm. Pl. Col. ii. pl. 107 [no. 448] fig. 2 (1827).

Dr. Sharpe (Cat. B. vii. p. 593), following Mr. A. O. Hume [Str. F. ix. p. 115 (1880)], wrongly identified *M. murina*, Blyth, with *Pnoëpyga roberti*, Godw.-Aust. & Wald., the latter name becoming of course a synonym of his *Turdinulus murinus*, the description of which was taken from Col. Godwin-Austen's type of *P. roberti*, for in 1883 the British Museum did not possess an example of this little Babbler.

Then followed the mistake of identifying the Mooleyt birds as *T. roberti* which I have already alluded to.

Mr. E. W. Oates was the next to fall into this trap, and his description of *T. roberti* (Fauna Brit. Ind., Birds, i. p. 176) is taken from the Tenasserim specimens, which belong to a species totally distinct from the Manipur bird.

Subsequently I compared my *T. guttaticollis* from the Miri Hills with what I believed to be the true *T. roberti* (from Tenasserim); but later on, in going through Col. Godwin-Austen's collections, I came on his types of that species and saw, to my consternation, that what I had thought such a distinct new bird was really very closely allied to Robert's Babbler.

That the two species prove to be distinct is due to accident; the Miri bird is darker and altogether browner, and lacks the rufous on the sides of the breast and flanks. It will thus be seen that the Tenasserim birds are not *T. roberti* and must have a name. But Dr. Sharpe's *Turdinulus exsul*, from the highlands of Borneo, is so ex-

tremely closely allied that I prefer to include the Tenasserim birds under that name.

In describing *T. exsul* from Kina Balu (Ibis, 1888, p. 479), Dr. Sharpe compares it with *T. roberti*, but he of course refers to Mooleyt examples in the Hume and Tweeddale collections. The only difference between them is that the Bornean examples have the ear-coverts devoid of a slight rufescent tinge characteristic of most specimens from Tenasserim and the Malay Peninsula, but not of all, for one example from Klang is in this respect similar to specimens from Borneo.

The species of *Turdinulus* should therefore now stand as follows:—

Key to the Species.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| A. Feathers of the middle of the throat white or grey, each with a median greyish-black streak. | |
| a. Tips of the wing-feathers white. | |
| a'. Sides of the breast and flanks chestnut | <i>T. brevicaudatus.</i> |
| b'. Sides of the breast and flanks reddish olive-brown | <i>T. leucostictus.</i> |
| b. Tips of the wing-feathers buff. Sides of the breast and flanks reddish brown | <i>T. striatus.</i> |
| B. Feathers of the middle of the throat white or whitish buff, with a triangular black spot at the end of each. Tips of wing-feathers white. | |
| c. General colour of plumage brown, washed with rufous, especially on the sides of the breast and flanks | <i>T. roberti.</i> |
| d. General colour of the plumage darker brown, sides of the breast and flanks dark olive-brown | <i>T. guttaticollis.</i> |
| C. Feathers of the middle of the throat uniform, devoid of black streaks or spots. | |
| e. Sides of the breast brown, with buff shaft-stripes; superciliary stripes buff or whitish buff | <i>T. exsul.</i> |
| f. Underparts reddish brown, with wide white shaft-stripes; superciliary stripes white and clearly defined; feathers on the sides of the throat white, strongly tipped with black | <i>T. epilepidotus.</i> |

1. *TURDINULUS BREVICAUDATUS* (Blyth); Büttikofer, Notes Leyd. Mus. xvii. p. 75 (1895).

Specimens in Brit. Mus. from:—

Mount Mooleyit, 5000 ft. W. Limborg. Tweeddale Coll.

Mount Mooleyit, 5000-ft. W. Davison. Hume Coll.

Thoungyah. J. Darling. Hume Coll.

Mount Byingyi, 5500 ft., Shan States. E. W. Oates, Esq. [P.].

2. *TURDINULUS LEUCOSTICTUS* (Sharpe); Büttikofer, op. cit. p. 75 (1895).

Specimens in Brit. Mus. from:—

Perak, Malay Peninsula. L. Wray, Esq. [P.]. *Types of the species.*

3. *TURDINULUS STRIATUS* (Walden); Büttikofer, op. cit. p. 75 (1895).

Turdinus williamsoni, Godwin-Austen, J. As. Soc. Beng. xlv. pt. ii. p. 44 (1877).

Specimens in Brit. Mus. from:—

Khasi Hills.	Tweeddale Coll.	<i>Type of the species.</i>
Garo Hills.	} Godwin-Austen Coll.	<i>Type of Turdinus williamsoni, Godw.-Aust.</i>
Tenga Pani, near Sadiya.		
Noa Dihing, " "		
Chakha, Manipur Hills.		
Konchungbuna, Manipur Hills.		

4. *TURDINULUS ROBERTI* (Godwin-Austen & Walden).

Pnoëpyga roberti, Godwin-Austen & Walden, Ibis, 1875, p. 252; Godwin-Austen, J. As. Soc. Beng. xlv. pt. ii. p. 195 (1876); Hume, Str. F. iv. p. 218 (1876).

Turdinulus murinus, Oates, Birds Brit. Burmah, i. p. 62 (1883) [part; description of type only].

Specimens in Brit. Mus. from:—

Chakha, Manipur Hills.	} Godwin-Austen Coll.	<i>Types of the species.</i>
Asalu, Manipur Hills.		
Eastern Naga.		
Noa Dihing, near Sadiya.		
Manbúm, near Sadiya.		

Subsp. *a.* *TURDINULUS GUTTATICOLLIS*, Grant, Ibis, 1895, p. 432.

Specimens in Brit. Mus. from:—

Miri Hills.	} Godwin-Austen Coll.	<i>Type of the species.</i>
Mishmi Hills.		

5. *TURDINULUS EXSUL*, Sharpe; Büttikofer, Notes Leyd. Mus. xvii. p. 76 (1895).

Turdinulus roberti, Hume & Davison (nec Godw.-Aust. & Wald.), Str. F. vi. p. 234 (1878); Sharpe, Notes Leyd. vi. p. 173 (1884); Oates, Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, i. p. 176 (1889).

Turdinulus murinus, Hume (nec Blyth), Str. F. ix. p. 115 (1880); Oates, Birds Brit. Burmah, i. p. 62 (1883) [except description of type].

Specimens in Brit. Mus. from:—

Thoungyah.	J. Darling.	} Hume Coll.	} Cheeks and sides of the throat washed with rust-colour: underparts less clearly suffused with tawny buff.
Mt. Mooleyit.	W. Davison.		
Mt. Mooleyit.	W. Limborg.		
Klang, Selangore.	W. Davison.	Hume Coll.	} Cheeks and sides of the throat with scarcely a trace of rust-colour (as in Bornean examples); underparts mostly whitish, partially suffused and edged with pale buff and reddish brown.
Kina Balu.	A. H. Everett, Esq. [C.].	}	} Cheeks and sides of the throat mostly white, with only a slight trace of rust-colour; underparts rather more richly suffused with tawny buff.
Mt. Dulit.	C. Hose, Esq. [C.].		
Mt. Penrisen.	C. Hose, Esq. [C.].		

By some ornithologists the Tenasserim birds may be considered worthy of specific distinction, but the differences between them and the Bornean specimens are so slight that I prefer to include them under the heading of *T. exsul*.

With regard to the specimen from Klang, I think it quite possible that it may represent a distinct species, but without more material I cannot give a decided opinion. Mr. E. W. Oates was evidently also at one time inclined to consider the Klang specimen distinct, for it bears a MS. name in his handwriting, which, however, he never published.

6. *TURDINULUS EPILEPIDOTUS* (Temm.), Sharpe, Notes Leyd. Mus. vi. p. 172 (1884); Büttikofer, Notes Leyd. Mus. xvii. p. 75 (1895).

Myiothera murina, Blyth (nec S. Müll.), Ibis, 1865, p. 47.

Specimen in Brit. Mus. from:—

Mount Jedeh, Java. Dr. Vorderman.

This specimen agrees exactly with Dr. Sharpe's description of the type from Sumatra in the Leyden Museum, and this species apparently inhabits both islands.

V.—On a new Species of Tit-Babbler from the Naga and Manipur Hills. By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

WHILE continuing the incorporation of Col. Godwin-Austen's Collection recently acquired by the Trustees of the British Museum, I found five examples of a new species of Tit-Babbler, as Mr. E. W. Oates calls the birds of the genus *Proparus*, which had been wrongly identified with *Proparus vinipectus* (Hodgs.). From this species, however, the Naga and Manipur birds are easily distinguished, having the crown and back of the head somewhat more rufescent, the bands bordering the sides of the occiput and nape *dark chocolate* instead of black, and the white on the underparts *restricted to the throat*, the fore neck and chest being uniform vinous-buff instead of white. I have called this very distinct species after Col. Godwin-Austen, by whom the type specimen was obtained in the Naga Hills. The following is a full description:—

PROPARUS AUSTENI.

Proparus austeni, Grant, Bull. B. O. C. 1895, no. xxix. p. iii.

Adult (type). Crown and occiput pale chocolate-brown washed with rufous, the latter margined along the sides by bands of *deep chocolate*, beneath which run the white eye-brow stripes, which commence above the middle of the eye and are continued backward to the sides of the nape. Lores and ear-coverts deep vinous-brown; mantle much